





SCRIPTURAL QUALIFIED MEN

FOR

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Are the Only Proper Persons

TO BE MADE CHOICE OF

In Order to Promote

NATIONAL HAPPINESS.

KING MOSES,* GENERALISSIMO OF GOD'S FAVOURITE PEOPLE the ISRAELITES, Directed His Subjects to seek out of each of their Tribes, Men EMINENT for WISDOM, of GOOD UNDERSTANDING, PRACTICALLY Religious, Known to be such EXPERIMENTALLY; & He would make them RULERS over them, Deut. 1, 13. AGREEABLE to the Judicious Counsel of His Father in law JETHRO, FIT Persons for the Administration of PUBLIC GOVERNMENT; Particularizing necessary Qualifications for that IMPORTANT Office, the GOOD ORDER, Harmony, and Reciprocal Advantage, of each Individual in the Community, DESCRIBING them as "*Able Men, such as fear GOD, Men of Truth, Hating Covetousness,*" Exod. xviii, 21. Which Excellent Advice was Immediately Approved of, and Complied with by KING MOSES & His Subjects, Deut. 1. 14, 15. Which Ought

* Deuteronomy 33. 5.

to be a GLORIOUS PRECEDENT to ALL GOVERNMENTS in future Generations; who BELIEVE the Authenticity of the sacred Scriptures; *"That holy Men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost,"* 2 Pet. i. 21. And that *"Whatsoever Things were written aforetime, were written for our Learning,"* Rom, xv. 4. *"For Doctrine, for Reproof, for Correction, for Instruction in Righteousness,"* 2 Tim. iii. 16. Blessed be GOD, we Live in a Truly Catholic, Christian Country, where every individual Person, the Poorest, as well as the Richest, has the full Liberty of perusing the Divine Oracles, *"Which are able to make them wise unto Salvation, thro' Faith which is in Christ Jesus,"* 2 Tim. iii. 15. And to worship God Publickly in that Manner, as they Believe is most acceptable to Him, and to hear the Doctrines of the Gospel explained and Enforced in any CHURCH of CHRIST, of any Denomination, as they can Edify most for the Benefit of their Immortal Souls. For OUR Rational Protestant Christian Country, DETESTS the Presumptive Absurdity, of the Unchristian SUPREMACY of A POPE, & ARBITRARY Power of a PRINCE; where all its Inhabitants *"Sit under their own Vine, and under their own Fig-tree, none making them afraid,"* Mic. iv. 4. Where we enjoy our Civil and Religious Liberties, and without giving Offence to PRINCELY or Ecclesiastical Authority, can drink a British Toast, viz. OLD ENGLAND, Its LAWS and LIBERTIES, in Opposition to TYRANNY of PRINCES and ROGUERY of PRIESTS:

In

In Memory of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, who was LORD MAYOR of LONDON, in 1711. This was His FAVOURITE TOAST; after HE had drank to QUEEN ANN's Health, before she was corrupted by an unscriptural Persecuting Oppressive Ministry, and a stupid Ridiculous PARLIAMENT, who had made A LAW, that even A poor old decrepit Widow, or tawny-fac'd Old SPINSTER, forsooth, should be prohibited from teaching poor Lads and Lasses their A, B, C, under a severe Penalty to be laid on them by their JOBBERNOWL WISDOM. But blessed be God, our Excellent PRINCE, not only Professes Protestant Principles, but Practises them. Who immediately when He ascended this His NATIVE Throne, made the following Noble, Truly Christian, Catholic Declaration, in His most excellent Speech, viz. "That the Peculiar Happiness
 " of His Life should ever consist in Promoting
 " the Welfare of His Subjects, by an invariable
 " Resolution in adhering to, and strengthening
 " of our excellent Constitution in Church and
 " State, and maintaining the Toleration in-
 " violable, and that in order to draw down the
 " Divine Favour on his Reign: It was his fixed
 " Purpose to Countenance and Encourage the
 " Practice of true Religion and Virtue." Which is the very Quintessence of natural and Revealed Religion; the true Spirit of the Gospel of ADORABLE JESUS. O! the ENERGE-TICAL Efficacious Eloquence contained in this Christian ORATION. But as the Wisest, & Wealthiest PRINCE that ever was or will be,

1 Kings 3. 12. 13. has absolutely assured us, *There is not a just Man on Earth that doeth Good and sinneth not*, Ecclesiastes 7. 20. It is NOT SCRIPTURAL or REASONABLE to Expect PERFECTION in any Earthly PRINCE.

But I Defy the Enemies of His Present British Majesty (if he has any) to prove wherein he has in any Instance, wilfully receded, or not fulfilled His CORONATION Oath, to this 26th of October 1770, which is now this Day, Ten Years since He has been Proclaimed KING of ENGLAND: And if there has been any Blunders in His Princely Government, it has been owing, to His being imposed on, by Fallacious Insinuations and Misrepresentations, the too common Vices, of Deistical, Sophistical, and Irreligious Pretenders to Christianity, Designing Self-interested-Sycophantizers. Such Human Leeches are some of the greatest of Nuisances, the Pests of Civil Government, which are experienced more or less in every Christian Country. If a SERAPHIM, one of the highest Order of the Angelic HOST, was to Reign as a temporal Prince on Earth, he would be charged with some Error or other, Job 4. 18. Liable to be Imposed on by **Luciferian Deceivers**, Specious Hypocrites, as no one knows the HEART but GOD. However, A PRINCE Particularly ought to guard against all Deception whatever (as much as possible,) which can only be with certainty, but by *Trusting in the Lord with all His Heart, and not to lean unto his own Understanding, but in all his Ways to acknowledge GOD in Order to be directed by him,* &
not

not to be wise in his own Eyes, but to fear the Lord, and depart from Evil, Prov. 3. 5, 6, 7. For those that Ruleth over Men must be Just, Ruling in the fear of God, 2 Sam. 23. 3. For Righteousness exalteth a Nation, but Sin is the Reproach of any People, Prov. 14, 34. A wise King scattereth the Wicked, Prov. 20. 26. For it is the Honour of a King to search out a Matter;—If the Wicked is removed from before him, his Throne shall be established in Righteousness, Prov. 25. 2, 5. When the Righteous are in Authority, the People Rejoice, but when the Wicked Beareth Rule, the People Mourn, Prov. 29. 2 Therefore it is the Wisdom of all Christian Princes, not to make Choice of any Men whomsoever to be Ministers of State, or PRIVY Counsellors Merely for their HONORARY Titles or earthly Riches, but for their Moral Excellence, Divine Graces which Cause them Truly ILLUSTRIOUS; Honourable both in the Sight of God and all good Men. The holy Scriptures do not Proclaim the Rich of the World to be more EXCELLENT than Their Neighbours; but that the Righteous are, Prov. 12. 26. The Saints of the Earth are the Excellent, Psal. 16. 3. For a Man of Understanding is of an excellent Spirit, Prov. 17. 27. But great Men are not always Wise, Job 32. 9. unless they are in their own conceit; but the Poor that hath Understanding searcheth them out, Prov. 28. 11. A poor wise Man, by his Wisdom saved a City from Destruction, Eccles. 9. 15. Therefore in order for GREAT BRITAIN to have Sensible Religious Good Men
in

in the Administration of Public Government, It would be the WISDOM of His M JESTY, to Order His Subjects, (as MOSES did,) to look amongst themselves, for wise and Understanding Men, known to be such, as DO real Good with their own private Fortune, let it be what it will, and that no limited yearly Revenue should be necessary for them to be in Possession of. In Case they were "*able Men, such as feared God, Men of Truth, bating Covetousness*"; and that they should be made Choice of Annually; which would be an absolute check on Candidates for Members of Parliament to offer Bribes, in order to be Elected, and put a final stop to false-Swearing, the HEINOUS Sin of our NATION (PERJURY) which is recorded in holy WRIT, very displeasing to God, Exod, 23. 8. Deut. 16. 19. 1 Sam. 8. 3. Ch. 12. 3. 2 Chron. 19. 7. Job. 15. 34. Psal. 26. 10. Prov. 29. 4. Isa. 33. 15. Amos 5. 12. And in ORDER to Prevent NATIONAL Unhappiness it would be the Wisdom and Interest of the ELECTORS in every COUNTY, CITY, & BOROUGH in ENGLAND, to make CHOICE of no Men for their Representatives in Parliament, but what are Scripturally Qualified as those were whom MOSES made RULERS over the People, "*Able Men*, that is, Men of Good Sense, of solid Judgment, unwavering Resolution, Ecclef. 8. 5. Joshua 24. 15. of clear Heads and inflexible Hearts; not to be Daunted by Frowns, or inveigled by Smiles, or imposed on by Sycophants, Flatterers, Deceivers, 2 Sam. 3. 25. Job 17. 5. Ch. 27. 4. Ch. 32. 21. 22. Psal. 5. 6. and

6. and 43. 1. and 55. 33. Psal. 120. 2, Isai. 30. 10. Mic. 6. 12. Dan. 11. 32, Rom. 3. 13. Coloss. 2. 8. For the Wisdom of the Prudent is to understand his Way, but the Folly of Fools is deceit, Prov. 14. 8. The Excellency of Knowledge is, that Wisdom giveth Life to them that have it, Eccles. 7. 12. Wisdom strengtheneth the Wise, more than ten Men which live in the City, Ecc. 7. 19. Scriptural qualified Men for CIVIL GOVERNMENT are such as "*fear God*, that is, Those who have a constant Sense of HIS All-seeing Eye, Ps. 139. Prov. 15. 3. (His Eyes being ten Thousand Times Brighter than the Sun, beholding all the Ways of Men, Ecclesiasticus 23. 19.) And who by their Speech, & Conversation, manifest, they are practically Sensible; and are to be accountable for every idle Word they speak, Matt. 12. 36. 37. And for every evil Action, Matt. 25. 2 Cor. 5. 10. Prov. 14. 13. *The fear of the Lord is to hate Evil, Pride, and Arrogancy*, Prov. 8. 13. so as to Depart from it, which is Understanding, Job 28. 28. To flee from alluring Temptations, saying with virtuous Joseph, How can I do this Wickedness and Sin against God? Gen. 39. 9. This is a Rational Argument which ought to be Prevalent with Mankind, and would by the Grace of God, be a Means of causing us to "*Abstain from all Appearance of Evil*, 1 Theff. 5. 22. The fear of the Lord is not to be Self-Conceited, Prov. 3. 5. Ch. 26. 12. Ch. 28. 11. Not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, Rom. 12. 3. Minding not high Things, but condescending
to

to Men of low Estate, Ver. 16. EVER for to Remember the poorest Persons in the World are Our Brethren, fallible Mortals, who have the very same Kind of Blood run through their Veins, Acts 17. 26. and are in God's Estimation Equal, Job 34. 19. and frequently Regarded MORE BY HIM than the RICH are, for a little that a RIGHTEOUS Man hath, is better than the Riches of many Wicked, Psal. 37. 16. for a good Man is satisfied from himself, Prov. 14. 14. The true fear of God is Proof against Injustice, Gen. 42. 18. 2 Sam. 23. 3. They will not be Oppressive in any Kind or Degree, Witness good Governor NEHEMIAH, who for twelve Years successively in the GOVERNMENT under KING ARTAXERXES, Generously served his King and Country from a Principle of the fear of God, who Refused the customary Reward that the Governors his Predecessors had before him, because he would not be chargeable to the People, not to be Injurious or Oppressive to the Community. Neh. 5. 15. Which was true PATRIOTISM; Because it is manifested by Actions, which is infinitely preferable to Words, and fair Speeches, and ought to be a Precedent and Example to all CHRISTIAN SENATORS and Representatives in Parliament, particularly those who are in Affluent Circumstances, not to be so mean spirited as to receive Hundreds a Year out of the PUBLIC Money, which is Accumulated out of the Absolute Necessaries of every poor Family in the Kingdom, many of whom cannot afford to buy a joint of Meat one Day in the Week, or brew a Barrel of Ale for the Glorious Festivals of CHRISTMAS and EASTER. &c.

Therefore Oppressive to the Commonality, which is very Displeasing to God, Job 35. 9. Ps. 12. 5. Prov. 28. 16. Ecc. 4. 1. Isa. 33. 15.

Scriptural Qualified Men for Civil Government, are also "*Men of Truth*" Who speak the very Sentiment of their Heart, Ps. 15. 2. The fifteenth Psalm is a Beautiful Description, an excellent Encomium, a concise Summary of Vital Practical Religion. It would be the Wisdom of all Parents to learn their Children by Heart this Psalm, as soon as they could Speak Plain——And if Mankind in General would "*Walk Righteously, and Speak Uprightly, and Despise the Gain of Oppression, and scorn the taking of a Bribe.*" Isa. 33. 15. It would be one infallible Means of removing all National Unhappiness and promoting universal Tranquility. Scriptural Qualified Men for Civil Government "*Hate Covetousness.*" This Sin is of the most Deceptive Nature, Kind, and Degree of all Others Whatever,——Those who are very Rich, and Others who are in GOOD Circumstances in Life, too frequently Term, (what in reality is in them Covetousness) to be only Human Prudence, Frugality, Oeconomy, Notableness, which would be so in Persons of lower Circumstances of Life, but not so in Them. "*For unto whomsoever much is given, of Him, shall much be required.*" Luke 12. 48. Wealthy Persons now and then doing little Good, giving away five or ten Pounds in a Year, who have Thousands a Year, or at least Hundreds neat Value, may be Scripturally term'd Covetous, or at least not Liberal or Bountiful,
because

Because Divine Revelation requires, yea most strictly Commands those who are Rich in the World, to be of A Noble, Generous, Spirit, Deut. 15. 14. To DO a great deal of Good, "*To be Rich in Good Works,*" 1 Tim. 6. 18. Which Evidently Implies that Persons in High Stations of Life may be Poor in Good Works, and the BLESSED JESUS, intimates to us that a Poor Widow with one Farthing, may be Richer in Good Works, than many Wealthy People are, who out of their Abundance give Much, Mark 12. 41. to end Luke 21. 1 to 5. On the most Deliberate Serious Consideration, I think it can't be in TRUTH, consistent with Divine Revelation, justly to Term those who are in Affluent Circumstances in Life to be "*Rich in good Works,*" unless they actually appropriate at least one Twelfth Part of their Yearly INCOME, from One Hundred Pounds a Year upwards, to a Hundred Thousand, Proportionable, or Adequate thereto, and Respectively therefrom to Do REAL Acts of Kindness, Beneficence and Charity, to their Poor Brother Mortals, Devising Schemes and Methods to employ those who are out of Work, to assist Others with the necessaries of Life who cannot assist themselves, and also some with the conveniences of Life, besides the absolute necessaries. To do good to All, but in a more eminent Manner to those whom they have Reason to Believe, Live agreeable to the Rules and Direction of Christianity, "*Who are of the Household of Faith,*" Gal. 6. 10. for even a draught of Water given to such Persons will be Rewarded,
Matt.

“ Matt. 10. 42. He that hath a Bountiful Eye
 “ shall be Blessed: for he giveth of his Bread to
 “ the Poor, Prov. 22. 9. The Righteous con-
 “ sidereth the cause of the Poor, but the Wicked
 “ regardeth not to know it, Prov. 29. 7. The
 “ Liberal Deviseeth Liberal Things, Isa. 32. 8.
 “ God is glorified by Liberal Distributions unto
 “ all Men, 2 Cor. 9. 13. It is the indispensable
 “ Duty of Christians to maintain good Works
 “ for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful,
 “ Titus 3. 14. Therefore as there are many,
 many poor Families in England, both in Cities,
 Towns, and Villages, who scarcely taste any
 Meat from Weeks end to Weeks end, it would
 be consistent with Primitive Genuine Christiani-
 nity, for every Person who is in Affluent Cir-
 cumstances to keep an open Table for their Poor
 Neighbours, or Acquaintance at least once a
 Week, whom they should invite Alternately. In
 the infancy of Christianity at Jerusalem Believers
 had all things Common, Acts 2. 44. Which
 at least implies, that those who are wealthy
 ought to abound always in ordinary; and some-
 times in Extraordinary Works of Charity, look-
 ing on the Poor with sympathy, behaving to-
 ward them with brotherly Affection, *not saying*
unto them, depart in Peace, be ye warmed and
be ye filled, and not supply them with the needful,
 James 2. 16. But let them partake of your
 Buttocks of Beef, Legs of Mutton, and Pork,
 &c. And on some particular rejoicing Days in
 the Year, when Mankind, as Christians, and
 Protestants have Reason, Religiously to Rejoice
 in a particular Manner, as the Day appointed
 by

by our Government to keep in commemoration the NATIVITY of our Blessed Lord, also His Glorious Ascension in the Celestial Regions: And in commemoration of the MERCIFUL DISCOVERY of the **Devilish Conspiracy** in 1605, which was to blow up by Gunpowder the KING, QUEEN, PRINCE, & NOBILITY, and GENTRY, in both Houses of Parliament,* in order to Destroy PROTESTANTISM and Establish UN-Christian POPERY: On such Peculiar Rejoicing Days it would be consistent with the True Spirit of a Christian, to invite their Poor Neighbours to partake of some of the good Creatures of God (which are of Greater Rarity to them,) as Ham & Fowls, Ducks, Geese, &c. "and to taste of some of the pure Blood of the Grape, Deut. 32. 14. Wine which *cheareth God and Man*, Judges 9. 13. That maketh glad the Heart of Man, Ps. 104. 15. And to "give strong Drink unto Him that is ready to Perish, and Wine to those that be of a heavy Heart," Prov. 31. 6. Eat thy Bread with Joy, and Drink thy Wine with a merry Heart, Ec. 9. 7. As Feasting is made for Laughter, and Wine maketh Merry, Ecc. 10. 19. The Invitation of Poor Persons, to partake of the good creatures of God at Festivals, would be agreeable to the Blessed Jesus's Precept to one of the Chief of the Pharisees that had invited him to his House, "When thou makest a Dinner or Supper (said he) call not thy Friends, nor thy Brethren, neither thy Kinsmen, nor thy rich Neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, & a recompence be made thee, but when thou makest a Feast, call

* See Fox's Book of Martyrs.

*" call the Poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind,
 " and thou shalt be Blessed: for they cannot recom-
 " pence thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the
 " Resurrection of the Just, Luke 14. 12. 13. 14.*

This GENUINE Christianity, is too much neglected in our Day by many Persons of all Denominations who make great Profession of Religion in all other Respects, but if this good OLD ENGLISH Hospitality was more frequently Practised by the Rich, they would find their Lives much H A P P I E R, more Beloved by their NEIGHBOURS, which would be for their Temporal, as well as SPIRITUAL Advantage.

It is now seven Years since I finished my Travels all over ENGLAND, when I slept in three Hundred different Beds & upwards every Year for five Years together: I heard of two Gentlemen, of very OPPULENT Fortunes, of considerable ESTATES, that lived not many Miles distance from each Other, one of the Gentlemen invited the Other to Dine with Him, with many OTHERS and made a very Handsome Country D I N N E R, with Butchers Meat, and also Poultry and Fish, and with most sorts of good Liquids. Soon after His Servants had Dined, He took the Gentlemen to shew them, in what Manner he fed His Pack of Hounds, which was the remains of Pieces of Beef and Mutton, as his Servants had left: Within a Month after the other Gentleman invited Him with most part of the same Company, & made as Elegant an Entertainment. As soon as the Cloth was removed from the Table, and Wine, October, Cyder and Fruit were put before them.—He ordered

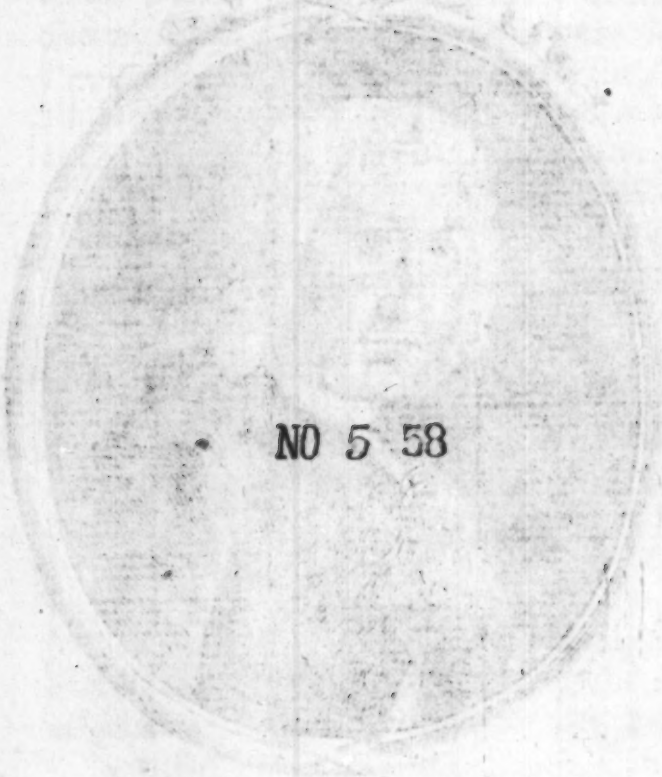
ordered his Servant to throw open two Large Folding Doors which separated a very considerable other Dining Room, wherein was two Long Tables, furnished with the substantial Dishes that had just went from his own Table, **FEASTING** His Poor Neighbours both Men and Women, drest Homely, yet neat and clean, partaking of the good Creatures with His own Servants, with Chearful Countenances, and Thankful Hearts.—O! the PLEASURE, that such Noble spirited Gentry have, in thus-like acting, agreeable to the Dictates of Humanity, (Natural Religion,) strengthened and corroborated by the Dictates of Christianity, especially when such Persons act from a Principle of doing Good to those Poor Persons whom they have Reason to Believe are real Christians, “ *Because they belong to Christ*, Mark 9. 41. WHO will most graciously say to Them, at the Grand and Awful Day of Judgment, *Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these my Brethren, ye have done unto me, come ye Blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the World*, Matt. 25. 34. 40. These momentous Considerations, these unspeakable Self interested Duties, ought to Rouse every Rich mean spirited covetous Person who makes a Profession of Christianity: The neglect of these Christian Duties will be dreadful, of which our Blessed Lord has kindly cautioned them of, by foretelling them of that woeful Sentence that will be pronounced against all such, viz. “ Depart from ME, ye Cursed, “ into

"into Everlasting Fire prepared for the Devil,
 "and his Angels," Matt. 25. 41. Covetous
 "Persons are abhorred of the Lord, Pl. 10. 3.
 Which Sin is ennumerated, in the black Cata-
 logue of the most Enormous Crimes, "be not
 "deceived, neither Fornicators, nor Idolaters, nor
 "Adulterers, nor Effeminate, nor Abusers of
 "themselves with Mankind, nor Thieves, nor
 "COVETOUS, or Drunkards, or Revilers, or
 "Extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of
 God, 1 Cor. 6. 10, Eph. 5. 5. Therefore Men of
 SUCH Characters let their situation in Life be
 what they will, (of the most Affluent Circum-
 stances,) they ought not to be made choice of
 for MEMBERS of Parliament, consequently
 the Electors in Great Britain would act wisely
 to make choice of no Men whomsoever, as their
 REPRESENTATIVES, but what RESIDE in
 their Neighbourhood, well known among them
 to be of Noble, Generous, Christian Dispositions,
 "*Able Men such as fear God Men of Truth*
 "*hating Covetousness.*" The KING of Kings
 and LORD of Lords has assured us, that such
 Persons are to be known, as easy as a Tree is
 known by his own Fruit, Matt. 7. 16. to 21.
 chap. 12. 35. Luke 6. 44. 45. They are Hu-
 mane and Compassionate, Meek and Humble,
 therefore easy of Access, not Haughty or Arro-
 gant, *minding not high Things but Condescending*
to Men of low Estate, being not Wise in their
own Conceits, Rom. 12. 16. That is, a True
 Christian let him be in ever so great Circum-
 stances will not be Proud Overbearing or Self-
 Opinionated, they will entertain Humble
 Thoughts

Thoughts of their own Knowledge, Self diffident of their own Judgment, always sensible they stand in need of DIVINE ASSISTANCE & Guidance, and the Council of GOOD MEN, WHETHER they are RICH OR POOR, for a Poor Man may be much wiser than a RICH Man, Ec. 9. 15. *He that hearkeneth unto Council is Wise*, Prov. 12. 15. **Irreligious Men** are not Wise, therefore very improper Persons to be consulted, especially in Affairs of Moment, much less to be Intrusted with them, & INFLUENCED by them. If all the Worldly Rich of Mankind, and all those who were in Power and Authority in Public Government were Zealous Practical Real Christians, from a PRIME MINISTER to a Petty Constable, they would be very assiduous to put our excellent Laws in full force against all Profaneness and Debauchery of every Kind. One Principal means would be to Enact a Law that no Newspaper should be published till Monday Evening, and that no Wholesale Market or Fair should be kept on a Monday, which would prevent Millions of Poor Souls from being Slaves on the SUNDAY, neglecting the Care of the *one thing needful*, Lu. 10. 42. The **Notorious Breach** of the SABBATH is the PRIMARY Cause of All **Wickedness**, & Wickedness is the ONLY Cause of Unhappiness, therefore the Choice of NONE, but Scriptural Qualified Men to be in the Administration of PUBLIC AFFAIRS, *as fear GOD, Men of Truth, bating Covetousness*. Is the very best Method, in order to Promote NATIONAL HAPPINESS, "*When the Righteous are in Authority the People REJOICE*".



The Right Honourable
WILLIAM PITT, EARL of CHATHAM.



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